

Navy May Take All Shipyards

Daniels Ready to Exercise Emergency Power if Necessary

Capital and Labor At His Command

Speeding Up Construction of Warships to Begin at Once

Washington, March 4.—Following the eleventh-hour passage without serious debate of the stupendous half-billion dollar naval appropriation bill, Secretary Daniels announced to-day that he would exercise immediately the emergency power granted him to commandeer private shipyards for warship construction, to take over private munition plants for government work and to spend \$115,000,000 for speeding up.

This means that the military establishment of the United States—the navy wing, at least—is, from this day, on a war footing. Capital, labor and material are to be socialized on a scale never before dreamed of in this country.

Mr. Daniels's statement says: "A serious problem that has confronted the Navy Department during the last two years has been the inability to secure the prompt construction of the ships authorized. The pressure upon private yards for merchant craft and the demand for skilled labor has been unprecedented.

Speeding Up to Begin at Once

"The authorization of money to speed up" added to the power granted to the President to commandeer private shipyards and plants manufacturing war materials, will be available at once, to the end that ships now under construction and to be constructed must be built much more rapidly than they have ever been built in this country. It is going to call for perfect and harmonious action by the private shipbuilding companies, the skilled mechanics and the navy. This necessity to secure quick construction may require the delay of merchant craft. In an emergency like the present the needs of the government are paramount.

"Delays will not be permitted to stand in the way of carrying out the clear intent of Congress. I will be quick to recommend taking over any plant if it is essential to do so in order to secure the building of new ships in double quick time. We will undoubtedly secure cooperation in putting an end to delays that have imperiled the construction of formerly authorized programs.

"I expect to have a consultation early this week with private shipbuilders whose plants have the largest capacity with reference to contracts for dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, scout cruisers, submarines and other ships appropriated for in the bill. Some of them have already indicated that they will be ready to meet the department in any way to expedite the building program. It is believed that all of them will do so.

Large Grant for Aviation

"The bill carries an appropriation of over \$5,000,000 for aviation in addition to whatever expenditures may be authorized for this purpose from the emergency fund of \$115,000,000, and it gives very large powers necessary to the production and development of aircraft in the United States. It empowers the President to spend \$1,000,000 to purchase patents on aircraft. The expenditure of this money may or may not be necessary, but it is the determination of the department to open the way so that manufacturers of aircraft may feel free to engage in their manufacture on a larger scale than has yet been undertaken in this country.

With the passage of this bill, naval experts are convinced that everything which legislation can accomplish has been done. The ships authorized at the beginning of the 64th Congress will tax the capacity of the country's shipbuilding facilities. All that remains to be done is a proper and efficient administration of the tremendous powers that have been concentrated in Secretary Daniels.

Following are some of the salient points of the naval bill:

Total specific appropriations \$517,364,476, \$200,000,000 more than last year, and every dollar immediately available.

Shipbuilding Programme

Provides for beginning work on the ships of the second year of the three-year building programme and continuing those authorized last year, as follows:

	Last Year	This Year
Battle ships	4	4
Battle cruisers	2	2
Scout cruisers	4	4
Destroyers	18	18
Submarines	10	10
Other vessels	10	10

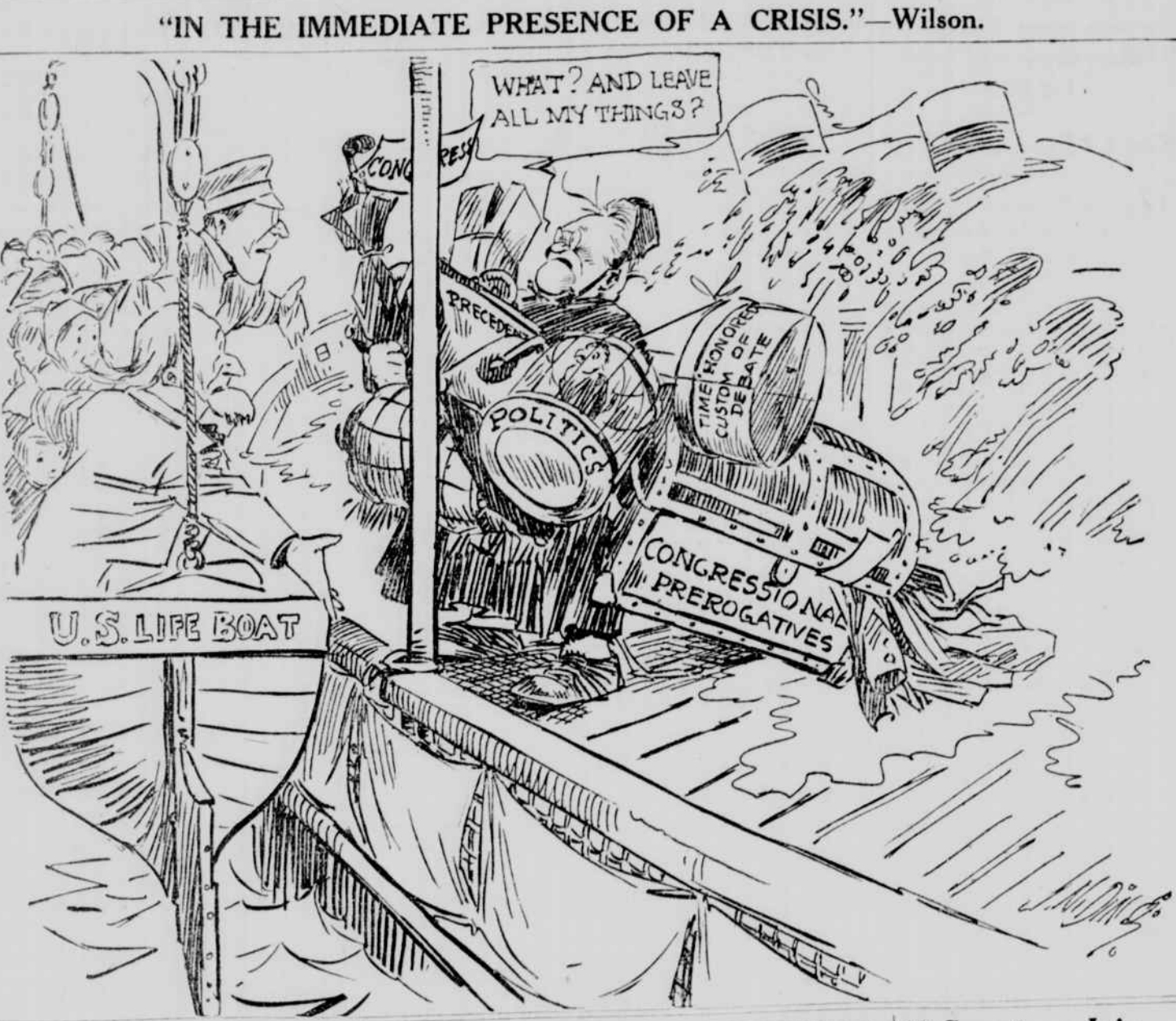
Outstanding features of the bill are: \$115,000,000 appropriation for speeding up construction of ships and the purchase or construction of aircraft, additional destroyers, submarine chasers, motor boats and other small craft. Emergency appropriation of \$18,000,000 for construction of twenty coast submarines in addition to the eighteen authorized for which money is provided in the three-year programme, making thirty-eight submarines specifically provided for in this bill.

Power granted to the President to commandeer private shipyards and plants manufacturing war materials, to be exercised at once.

For Navy Yard Equipment

Appropriation of \$12,000,000 for the equipment of navy yards for the construction of ships, added to the \$50,000,000 authorized at the preceding session.

Ordinance appropriations, including construction and fitting merchant and other auxiliaries are \$56,872,400.



Gompers Calls Labor Conference To Aid Defence

Wants Union Heads to Evolve Nation-Wide Preparedness Policy

Washington, March 4.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, announced here to-day that he had called a conference of 110 presidents of national and international unions and the four railroad brotherhoods to meet here on March 12. The stated purpose of the conference is to consider the present situation of the United States, particularly in view of the fact that preparedness policies are about to be formulated in which labor ought to have a voice.

Mr. Gompers, in his letter to the union presidents, reminded them that he had been appointed by President Wilson a member of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense.

Immediate Action Urged

"There is an immediate critical situation which the labor movement must meet at once," the letter said. "National constructive policies of preparedness and defence are now being formulated. The wage earners of the United States will have to recognize their obligations to maintain institutions of liberty and justice if they are to have part in directing the spirit and the methods that shall be adopted for the defence of our Republic.

"Some plan shall be adopted. Whatever the plan may be, it will affect wage earners primarily. Either duties and service in connection with national defence will be imposed upon the workers, without their advice when formulating these plans, or labor must share the ultimate purpose which has been undertaken by society, both in peace and in war, and for demanding that all plans be in harmony with the thought of human life and human welfare."

Seriousness Grows Daily

"Every day has added to the seriousness of the situation that confronts our nation. Even though we should be able to maintain our rights without being drawn into active participation in the present world conflict, yet we shall be compelled to meet the probable readjustment after the war and to do our part to have incorporated into international regulations what shall determine the future ideal and principles for national defence, and the establishment of institutions and relations to deal with misunderstandings, differences and conflicting interests so that they may be guided in such a way as to prevent future wars.

"Wage earners, the great masses of the people, have the right to demand that the interests of humanity shall under all circumstances be made paramount to the interests of property.

"The labor movement has repeatedly declared that representatives of wage earners ought to be included in every agency acting for the government of the people.

Metal Workers Start Plan

"Within the last few days a critical situation developed, making it necessary for metal workers employed in government navy yards to determine what attitude they would take toward plans for national defence. A conference, held to consider that particular problem, found it necessary to discuss the entire situation. In that conference representatives of the railroad department of the American Federation of Labor, who were then in Washington, conferring with representatives of railroad companies regarding wages, standards and schedules, met with officers and representatives of the American Federation of Labor."

Mr. Simonds to-day presents a graphic picture of the Somme Battlefield as he saw it a few weeks ago—on page 7.

Mr. Simonds's article on the French Vixen will be published to-morrow.

Wilson Takes Oath of Office Secluded from Capital Crowd

Hastens to Resume Work After Grave Ceremony in His Capitol Office—Strong Address Expected by Inauguration Throng To-day

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson took the oath of office for his second term at noon to-day in his room at the Capitol, and will be formally inaugurated to-morrow with public ceremonies, taking the oath a second time. An atmosphere of extreme gravity marked the simple ceremony.

After he had repeated the oath the President kissed the Bible at the passage reading:

"The Lord is our refuge: a very present help in time of trouble."

Chief Justice White administered the oath and was the first to extend his congratulations. Wringing the President's hand, he said:

"Mr. President, I am very, very happy."

Members of the Cabinet then crowded up. Mr. Wilson received them with a smile, and then turned back to his desk to complete interrupted tasks.

Vice-President Marshall did not take the oath to-day. He will be sworn in for his second term to-morrow.

Capital Crowd on Edge

To-night the capital, filled with thousands who have come from the four quarters of the nation for the quadrennial event, was on edge in anticipation of to-morrow's demonstration. Although the inaugural was planned, under the President's direction, to be as simple as the circumstances would permit, it will not be different in general character from the usual ceremony.

As customary, the President, after he has taken the oath and delivered his inaugural address on an open air stand before the White House at the head of a parade of many thousands, including public officers, military and naval organizations and a long line of delegations of private citizens. Then he will review the marchers from a stand before the White House grounds.

One feature, however, will reflect directly the gravity of the international situation. Down Pennsylvania Avenue the parade will pass between lines of National Guardsmen, chosen from the New York regiments, forming a military barrier on either side of the line of march. Not since Lincoln's second inauguration, during the Civil War, have troops been stationed to keep spectators back from an inaugural parade.

The Cabinet Decides to Break With Germany

President Opposes Action and Premier Chi-Jui Resigns—Other Members to Quit

Peking, March 4.—The Cabinet to-day decided that China should join the United States in breaking off relations with Germany. This decision was submitted to the President, who refused to approve the Cabinet's action, saying such power rested entirely with him. Premier Tuan Chi-Jui immediately resigned and left for Tientsin, accompanied by several other members of the Cabinet.

The resignation of the entire Cabinet is expected.

Parliament is virtually unanimous in favor of the opinion of the Cabinet. The leaders of all the political parties are adversely criticizing the President's position. The Vice-President of the republic supports the action of the Cabinet.

An official statement issued from the President's office says that the break between the President and the Premier was due to personal differences rather than to the foreign policy. President Li Yuan-hung has sent representatives to Tientsin to induce the Premier to return to Peking.

According to the President's office, the immediate cause of the break was a dispatch sent to the Chinese Minister at Tokio committing China to a rupture of relations with Germany and a union with the Entente powers under certain conditions. The President refused his approval because, he declared, Parliament must sanction all measures contemplating war, as well as a direct declaration of war.

40 Senators Join Owen in Fight On Filibusters

Thirty-three Sign Pledge to Work for Change in Rules

Washington, March 4.—Thirty-three of the forty-six votes which will be necessary to amend the rules of the Senate, as the President suggested in his statement to-night, and make impossible the killing of important measures by filibuster, have already been assured. A pledge to vote for the change has been circulated by Senator Owen, who has been working for this reform for years. Thirty-three men have signed it. Seven others have promised to support the reform. The pledge has not yet been submitted to more than a handful of Republicans.

Following are the pledge and signatures so far obtained:

"We, the undersigned, hereby mutually covenant and agree to cooperate with each other in compelling such changes in the rules of the Senate as to terminate successful filibustering and enable the majority to fix an hour for disposing of any bill or question subject to the rule of one hour to each Senator for discussion before or after the hour is fixed. This agreement to go into effect March 5, 1917.

Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma; Atlee Pomerene, Ohio; Henry F. Hollis, New Hampshire; Ollie M. James, Kentucky; James A. Reed, Missouri; William Hughes, New Jersey; James K. Vardaman, Mississippi; Henry L. Myers, Montana; Morris Sheppard, Texas; George E. Chamberlain, Oregon; John Sharp Williams, Mississippi; William F. Kirby, Arkansas; A. A. Jones, New Mexico; Claude S. Swanson, Virginia; Duncan U. Fletcher, Florida; John Walter Smith, Maryland; Willard Saulsbury, Delaware; W. J. Stone, Missouri; Edwin S. Johnson, South Dakota; Charles S. Thomas, Colorado; Henry F. Ashurst, Arizona; Key Pittman, Nevada; Paul O. Hastings, Wisconsin; Thomas J. Walsh, Montana; Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas; James A. Phelan, California; H. King, Utah; J. C. W. Beckham, Kentucky; Joseph E. Ransdell, Louisiana; James Hamilton Lewis, Illinois; William H. Thompson, Kansas; Francis G. Newlands, Nevada; and Albert B. Fall, New Mexico.

Works on Inaugural Address

To-night the President had not completed his inaugural address. It has been expected that recent developments in the international situation will have a large place in it, and to-night it was believed that the Senate's failure to reach a vote on the armed neutrality bill might be one of the points on which he will dwell in outlining his policies for the coming administration.

The cold, misty rainstorm which began yesterday kept up throughout to-day. Flags and bunting in which the capital has dressed itself are bedraggled and limp.

No hope for fair skies to-morrow is held out by the Weather Bureau. Clearing had been promised, but to-night the forecasters reversed themselves and predicted snow or rain.

The rain could not repress the visitors, and in the worst of the downpour the streets were crowded with sight-seers.

Necessary Legislation Killed

This inability of the Senate to act has rendered some of the most necessary legislation of the session impossible, at a time when the need for it was most pressing and most evident. The bill which would have permitted such combinations of capital and of organization in the export and import trade of the country as the circumstances of international competition have made imperative—a bill which the business judgment of the whole country approved and demanded—has failed.

The opposition of one or two Senators has made it impossible to increase the membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission or to give it the altered organization necessary for its efficiency. The conservation bill, which should have released for immediate use the mineral resources which are still locked up in the public lands, now that their release is more imperatively necessary than ever, and the bill which would have made the unused water power of the country immediately available for industry, have both failed, though they have been under consideration throughout the sessions of two Congresses and have been twice passed by the House of Representatives.

The appropriations for the army have failed, along with the appropriations for the civil establishment of the government, the appropriations for the Military Academy at West Point and the gen-

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Wilson Says Senate Has Left the People On Verge of Disaster

Armed Neutrality Bill Defeated by a Filibuster and Congress Having Adjourned, He Issues a Bitter Statement, Doubting His Own Constitutional Power to Arm Ships

Old Statute Seems to Forbid Him to Do So

Useless, the President Adds, to Call an Extra Session Unless the Upper House Beforehand Will Undertake to Amend Its Rules So That a Minority Cannot Ever Again Thwart the Will of an Overwhelming Majority

Washington, March 4.

President Wilson to-night informed the country in a statement that he is without power to arm merchant ships and take other steps to meet the German submarine menace, in the absence of authority from Congress.

The statement followed the final adjournment of Congress, which failed to enact the bill granting him that power, and much other legislation for the defence of the nation, owing to a filibuster by twelve Senators.

An extra session of Congress, the President says, is required to clothe him with authority, but it is useless to call one while the Senate works under the present rules, which permit a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority from acting.

The President proposes therefore that the special session of the Senate which he has called to meet to-morrow revise the rules "to supply the means of action and save the country from disaster."

"A little group of wilful men," says the President in his statement, "representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great government of the United States helpless and contemptible."

When he issued his statement the President authorized the further explanation that what rendered the situation even more grave than it had been supposed that it was, was the discovery that, while the President under his general constitutional powers could do much of what he had asked the Congress to empower him to do, it had been found that there were certain old statutes, as yet un repealed, which may raise insuperable practical obstacles and may nullify his power.

The old law referred to by the President was adopted by Congress in 1819, and referred to the resistance of American merchantmen against the attacks of privateers and pirates, but excluded from vessels which might be so attacked "a public armed vessel of a nation in amity with the United States." Technically, Germany is not at war with the United States, and submarines are "public armed vessels" of Germany.

The President's Statement

The President's statement in full follows:

The termination of the last session of the 64th Congress by constitutional limitation discloses a situation unparalleled in the history of any modern government. In the immediate presence of a crisis fraught with more subtle and far-reaching possibilities of national danger than any other the government has known within the whole history of its international relations the Congress has been unable to act either to safeguard the country or to vindicate the elementary rights of its citizens. More than 500 of the 531 members of the two houses were ready and anxious to act; the House of Representatives had acted, by an overwhelming majority; but the Senate was unable to act because a little group of eleven Senators had determined that it should not.

The Senate has no rules by which debate can be limited or brought to an end, no rules by which dilatory tactics of any kind can be prevented. A single member can stand in the way of action if he have but the physical endurance. The result in this case is a complete paralysis alike of the legislative and of the executive branches of the government.

President's Decision Keeps Shipping Tied Up

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson's decision, announced to-night, that he may lack authority, because of laws passed in 1819, to arm American merchant ships for defence, means that the American shipping tie-up, which began when the German threat was issued, will continue indefinitely—at least, until the ship owners can get arms, ammunition and gunners from private sources, if the law, indeed, will permit private arming.

This discovery is a great surprise. During the debate in the Senate it was felt that whether Stone, La Follette, et al., succeeded or not in defeating the will of the majority the President would use constitutional authority to protect American shipping. His statement to-night dispels that hope.

The principal blame is laid on Senator Stone, not because he organized the filibuster, for it was Senator La Follette who did that, but because it was the authority of his position as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee that gave the others the official encouragement without which they would hardly have dared oppose the obvious will of the country.

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